(b) if so, whether the main purpose of this decision is to solve the problem of inventory accumulation in public sector unts;

(c) whether in view of this, there was an urgent need to reduce inventories; and

(d) if so, to what extent this introduction of new system will help the public sector units to reduce the inventories?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) In view of (a) above, does not arise.

Toning up of public sector units

2056. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister had asked the public sector undertakings to tone up their administration;

(b) if so, whether any suggestions for toning up the administration of public sector undertakings have been spelled out by the Prime Minister; and

(c) to what extent these have been implemented by the public sector units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) The Prime Minister has been expressing his concern from time to time about the performance of public sector enterprises and he has stressed the imperative need to improve the quality and volume of production, capacity utilisation, technology upgradation, technology assimilation, energy conservation, competitiveness, workers' participation in management etc., and to reduce the cost of operations.

(c) The public sector enterprises have been from time to time apprised of these and their performance is constantly being monitored. It has been noticed that on the whole their performance has been improving steadily.

Pending petitions and appeals in Madras High Court

2057. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: *Will the Minister of* LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of cases in the original side, writ petitions and appeals pending in the civil and criminal side in the High Court of Madras; and

(b) whether Government propose to set up a Bench in Madurai, as part of the Madras High Court, to reduce the pending cases in Madras High Court?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Information as furnished by the Registry of the Madras High Court is given in the attached Statement.

(b) The proposal for establishment of a bench of the Madras High Court at Madurai was referred to the Jaswant Singh Commission. The report of the Commission is engaging the attention of the Government of India.